

SOUTH BEND NEWS-TIMES

Morning—Evening—Sunday.

JOHN HENRY ZUVER, Editor.
GABRIEL R. SUMMERS, Publisher.

The Paper That Does Things

ONLY ASSOCIATED PRESS MORNING FRANCHISE PAPER IN NORTHERN INDIANA AND ONLY PAPER EMPLOYING THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE IN SOUTHERN INDIANA. No other newspaper in the state provides two leased wire—night and day—news service. Also only one newspaper in the state outside Indianapolis. Published every day of the year and twice on all days except Sunday and holidays. Entered at the South Bend postoffice as second class mail.

THE NEWS-TIMES PRINTING COMPANY

Office: 210 W. Colfax Av. Bell Phone 2100
Home Phone 1151

Call at the office or telephone above numbers and ask for department wanted—Editorial, Advertising, Circulation, or Accounting. For "want ad" if your name is in the telephone directory, bill will be mailed after insertion. Report station to business, and circulation, poor delivery of papers, bad telephone service, etc., to head of department with which you are dealing. The News-Times has thirteen trunk lines, all of which respond to Home Phone 1151 and Bell 2100.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Morning and Evening Editions, Single Copy, 5c; Sunday, 5c; Morning or Evening Edition, daily, including Sunday, by mail, \$3.00 per year in advance. Delivered by carrier in South Bend and Mishawaka, \$3.00 per year in advance, or 12c by the week.

ADVERTISING RATES: Ask the advertising department. Foreign Advertising Representatives: CONE, LORENZEN & WOODMAN, 225 Fifth Av., New York City and 409, Bldg. Chicago. The News-Times endeavors to keep its advertising columns free from fraudulent misrepresentation. Any person defrauding through the patronage of any advertisement in this paper will confer a favor on the management by reporting the facts completely.

OCTOBER 26, 1916.

MESSRS HUGHES AND O'LEARY.

That Candidate Hughes has finally shown the manliness to submit to the force of circumstances, and at least, appropriating the idea, if not the spirit and language of Pres't Wilson, told one Jeremiah A. O'Leary where to get off with his un-Americanism, is about the sanest thing he has done since he entered the race for office.

We call it sane in spite of the insanity that must have driven him to it. Of course, it is not even to be insinuated that the republican nominee should have given the president any credit or approval for his re-employment of the infamous O'Leary telegram. "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Certainly not, and neither could any good thing possibly come out of the white house or Shadow Lawn, under Mr. Hughes' treatment of the present occupant. Silent at the time of the O'Leary telegraphic insult to the nation's executive, why should he recognize it now, though forced as he has been by an almost proven co-authorship, into disclaiming, not the telegram, but similar purport.

We have used the term "almost proven co-authorship," perhaps inadvisably though purposely, for the reason that it explains in advance, what it seems has been proven, namely: that Mr. Hughes has been dangerously near to an accessoryship both before and after the fact. Exposure of secret meetings between Mr. Hughes and Mr. O'Leary, at first denied by both in toto, and later only as to the secrecy after the proceeding had been let out—with even more to follow—naturally called for something more than denials from the republican nominee. It called for repudiation—another seeming right about face—to avoid another popular disapproval. O'Learyism, seemingly, was to be a welcome aid; was a welcome aid to the Hughes campaign, up to the moment where it began to burn his fingers, in consequence of which his disavowal of it, can stand only as a painful scream.

The silence of Mr. Hughes with reference to the purport of the O'Leary telegram, whether it had gone to the president of the United States or the humblest citizen in the land; continuing this silence up to the point where he began to feel the weight of that purport falling upon him, is all the evidence of his accessoryship after the fact that one needs.

And the light that this throws on the possibility, if not probability, in the face of other evidence, of an understanding with O'Leary sufficient to inspire and embolden him into sending that nefarious message, is quite as glaring.

If the reader has not been following the exposure of this political, if not well-nigh seditious conspiracy—called the American Independence conference,—the last three days of The News-Times carries it, and a review of it is well worth while. Here the O'Leary pro-German propagandists and republican national committee men get together and discuss the dissatisfaction of the O'Learyites with Mr. Hughes for his too-much "approval of all Roosevelt say," also his consequent, apparent, and otherwise silent, lack of pro-Germanism. Even Mr. Hughes himself seems to have been called in to pass on the bill of particulars, and left a condition which two days later resulted, perhaps without his counsel, but also without his subsequent disapproval; in that awful attempt, by political threat, to intimidate the head of the nation.

It must be getting pretty warm for Mr. Hughes, and he must be boiling over on account of the warmth, else why, after the silence of a month, does he rush out now, all of a sudden, with his repudiation of the O'Leary ideal? Even at this, he lacks the American manliness, and unadulterated sand, to designate who he is driving at, but speaks in his customary glittering generalities—playing the old double game. You have to guess that he means the O'Learyites, but he hasn't said so, and, of course, that leaves it so that when O'Leary complains, if it isn't understood already to be the political guff of expediency, the nominee, or his managers, can give that as an excuse and ward off the friction that might result where harmony once ruled.

Neither will the institution of bluff libel suits by O'Leary against Democratic National Chairman McCormick, or the making of bluff counter-charges against Pres't Wilson and Former Gov. Glynn of New York, by Republican National Chairman Wilcox, that they had been interviewed by O'Leary, serve to muddle the waters very materially. It will not, and cannot, but have been noticed, that whatever Mr. O'Leary's inducements may have been to them—and it is denied that there were any—they were not accepted, or acted upon, either in words or silence, by Pres't Wilson, or anyone acting for him. The president has been outspoken in his Americanism and against disloyal Americans, not in generalities but with specifications, along every step of the road. He has not had to be driven to it and then only in generalities, as in the case of Mr. Hughes, as thinking Americans can see.

Alas, we are afraid that Mr. Hughes' "watchful waiting" with reference to O'Learyism, bids to spoil his eleventh-hour confession or guarded denunciation, ever being taken seriously. It bids fair to put him in about

as bad with genuine "America Firsts," as the "watchful waiting" policy of Pres't Wilson did him, with Sen. Fall and other Wall st. "America Second" who have wanted intervention in Mexico. Possibly Mr. Hughes has been "investigating in advance" during the month that has passed, but evidently someone else has been investigating also, and queer, isn't it, that the result of their investigations should come to light so simultaneously? It is so confounded queer, that it looks suspiciously, at least, as though the republican nominee had drawn his inspiration from the other fellow's "investigations" instead of his own, perhaps knowing, as the "investigation" indicates, that the cat being out, the next best thing to do, would be to catch it, if possible, and skin it.

"No secret understandings? No intrigues?" Huh!

SORRY FOR THEM.

The appeal of a body of Greek citizens for the exercise of United States influence with the allied nations in their behalf will not fall upon deaf ears. Neutral nations, including our own, must sympathize deeply with the Greeks in their unhappy predicament. But the United States government is helpless to aid them, even by suggestion, without incurring the risk of a violation of our own neutrality which might be serious in consequences.

Unfortunately, Greece as a nation, cannot lay claim to a neutrality which is above suspicion. King Constantine has repeatedly given strong proofs of a decided leaning to the side of the central powers, while the Venizelos faction, almost as powerful as the king himself, is openly pro-ally. Greece has, from the beginning of the war, been divided against itself; it has been for both belligerents and against both, instead of for neither and against neither. Therefore, it has naturally incurred just suspicion of both and has won the friendship of neither. It is now paying the penalty for its indecision, equivocation and lack of national unity. With a king who would, admittedly, turn with every force at his command against the allies were it not for fear of swift punishment, the allies can hardly be blamed if they seek to shear him of his power and to keep the penalty for treachery ever present before him. Were the situation reversed, and the Germans in control of Greece, Venizelos would have been "disposed of" long since, yet Venizelos, quite likely, represents a larger portion of the Greek people than does King Constantine.

The measures adopted by the allied powers are stern ones, smacking of tyranny and oppression of a free people which will stick in America's craw. Yet, while we sympathize, we may not aid. Greek votes are less the fault of the allies than the misfortune of the Greek populace. It is the penalty they must pay for puppet rule.

INVESTIGATED, ALL RIGHT.

"I stand squarely on the principle of investigation before legislation!" declares Mr. Hughes in his talks against the eight-hour measure.

Charlie, there ain't no such thing as legislation before investigation, and well you know it. We elect a congress for legislation purposes. Congress worries around and enacts some measures which it thinks we think we want. But those measures are not legislation until the U. S. supreme court investigates. The supreme court carefully investigates and, if there isn't any trust that'll be unreasonably hurt, those bills that the people want and congress tries to give them are made legislation by that court.

Of course, not all of congress' bills go to the court but those that do are important enough to pay those who want to beat us out of them for carrying them up there. Investigation? Shucks! Our courts have investigated the life out of enough proposed legislation to run another republic twice as big as ours.

The fellows who got up our form of government were so fearful that the people would do their own legislating that they built a supreme court and gave it a cinch on legislation, investigation and all the other actions. Then, in order to rivet the cinch from both sides, they gave that court life-term and absolute irresponsibility.

The only investigation that finally counts, as Mr. Hughes ought to know, is U. S. supreme court investigation. If we're going to stand squarely and strictly on investigation before legislation, we ought to abolish congress early, thus reducing our expenses and our hypocrisy.

GASOLINE PUMPS.

If the federal bureau of standards is right, American motorists are being cheated out of millions of dollars by short-measuring gasoline pumps. The bureau reports that tests of the pumps used by retailers in many different cities have indicated that 50 per cent of them give short measure. The extent of the loss may be imagined from the bureau's estimate that in Illinois alone the motorists lose in this way more than \$500,000 a year.

It is charged that there is a "regular and continuous shortage" in the purchase of gasoline due to this practice. In all localities not under an efficient and competent weights and measures administration.

It is possible that retailers using short-weight pumps do not know they are cheating. But if so, they should promptly be advised of that fact and made to correct their measuring system. The only protection of the public in this as in other lines of consumption lies in frequent and careful inspection of weights and measures.

Cheating in gasoline is no more tolerable than cheating in sugar or flour or potatoes. Gasoline is not a luxury, but a necessity, and the cost of it today is quite high enough without having it secretly increased by short measurement.

WATCH THE FINGERS.

There is a fine opportunity now offered, by which audiences turning out to hear the Billionaire Suffrage special orator-esses may ascertain exactly their "station" in life.

Says the New York Herald, rabid Hughes organ:

"In Chicago, in deference to the station of the audience, Mrs. O'Shaughnessy, who wears large and handsome emerald and diamond rings, turned the flashing jewels inside her fingers, so that only the slender platinum wires showed."

Watch the fingers of the speakers, ladies! That's the tip.

If the flashing gems are "out," the audience, "stationally" speaking, is O. K.; if the gems are "in," the audience is—er—er—just a trifle below social sea level.

We do hope the ladies will see a regular Tiffany display. But anyway, don't be catty! They are being told a plenty how to vote.

WHY I AM FOR WILSON

by Mrs. Antoinette Funk
Progressive Leader of Chicago.

The issues between the parties were drawn where we least expected them, and they were drawn by Mr. Wilson.

When he forced the Eight-hour Law through Congress, one of the most far-reaching acts of any President at any time. The method, the haste and all of the details are of minor importance even the immediate effect of settling the strike piles in to insignificance beside the fact of the recognition of the short work day. That is the ultimate triumph, and industrial justice has gone forward a quarter of a century.

Campaign of 1916
Bears Resemblance
to That of 1884

There is nothing new under the sun, not even in politics. In looking over some of the current publications for the year 1884, one is struck by the very many points not only similar, but practically identical, between the campaign of Cleveland then and the campaign of Wilson now.

Happily, the present campaign, by the high personal characters of the two presidential candidates is freed from the scurrility and personal abuse and criticism that marked the campaign of 1884. But in many other points the candidate of the democrats then and their candidate now and the striking features of their respective campaigns are strikingly alike. However unlike, individually, in many ways Mr. Wilson may be from Mr. Cleveland he has many of old Grover's qualities and the things that Wilson stands for in this day and time are very much the same as the things Cleveland stood for in his time.

As the year 1884 witnessed the coming over to the democratic candidate of many of the best and most prominent men in the republican party and from the ranks of the independents, so this campaign witnessed the coming over to the support of Wilson of the same kind of men from the republican ranks and from the progressives and independents. George William Curtis left the republican party to support Cleveland and Pres't Emeritus Charles W. Eliot leaves the republican party to support Wilson. Harper's Weekly ceased to be a republican paper and became an ardent supporter of Cleveland and the Springfield (Mass.) Republican pursued a similar course this year. Garfield's cabinet member, Carl Schurz, warmly espoused Mr. Cleveland's candidacy and Garfield's son, Harry E. Garfield, president of Williams college, advocates the election of Wilson; Henry Ward Beecher then, David Starr Jordan now; Puck then, Life now. The list could be continued indefinitely.

The names of men like Edison, Ford, Congressman Kent, Matthew Hale, Judge Lindsey, Irving Fischer, and a host of others who have become Wilson men are easily recalled. It is interesting to read the list of similar men who made the same charge in 1884: William Endicott and Samuel Hoar and Roger Wolcott of Massachusetts, Theodore Bacon of New York, James Boutelle of Ohio, James Clinlin of Illinois, Simon E. Baldwin, then a young man, now the revered old jurist of Connecticut, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Benjamin Thurston and hosts of others.

Another point of similarity, one that makes the present republican candidate's claim to be the "one-hundred percent American candidate" look ludicrous, is the fact that the republicans in 1884 made a tremendous bid for the Irish vote by figuratively twisting the British lion's tail. Harper's Weekly had a cartoon in its August 16, 1884, number labeled "The So-Called Intense American Candidate," in which is ridiculed the attempt of arraying America against England to win the Irish-American vote. And in its issue for August 30 of the same year under the heading "Bidding for Foreign Vote," it had the following:

"Mr. Blaine has been presented as a peculiarly 'American candidate' who as an earnest advocate declares, 'will make Bismarck eat American pork.'"

Here is the attempt to play upon the anti-German prejudice. The German vote was small those days, the Irish large. The editorial continues:

"The object sought by the country at this election is not a swaggering foreign policy * * * nor any kind of demagoguery of blustering whatever. It asks an honest, able and courageous conduct of public affairs, beyond the reach of any suspicion of illicit private influence or interest. Unless all signs are at fault, it desires at the head of the government the very qualities which Gov. Cleveland has shown so conspicuously. Those who suppose that because Gov. Cleveland does not swagger or 'bid for votes' he would be less vigorous in protecting the lawful rights of citizens abroad than those of citizens at home are exceedingly mistaken."

Putting "Pres't Wilson" in place of "Gov. Cleveland" the above would be absolutely applicable today. Judge F. O. Mason, law partner of Sec'y of the Treasury Folger (rep.) who came into the Cleveland ranks, wrote, "I think that in this instance the democratic party has not made a mistake. It seems to have apprehended the real demand of the people and to have met that demand by the character of its candidate." This is exactly what the democrats have done this year.

THE MELTING POT

Conducted by Stuart H. Carroll

THREE SOFT SNAPS.

I'd like to be a lawyer, for a lawyer's job is great. He petrifies the jury with his thunderous debate. With minimum of labor and with maximum of ease He gathers large and golden gobs of gratitude and fees; And when his careful client has conclusively been hung, He does not kick about the cost or state that he was stung.

I'd like to be a doctor, for a doctor has a snap. He meets the merry microbe in a soft, one-sided scrap. No matter if he fails to cure the patient of his ills, He doesn't give a discount from his tall and stately bills. And after the deceased has gone to join the happy saints, He cannot nag the doctor with continuous complaints.

I'd like to be a preacher, for the preacher sells advice. On terms that seem to other folks extremely grand and nice. He earns his modest competence of tried and trusty kyle By pointing out to pilgrim feet the true celestial trail; But those who buy his guidance and who reach the other place Can not come back to take a whack and pulverize his face.

—A. B. B.

"KISS YOUR LITTLE PATIENT."

GOOD NIGHT NURSE!

Sir: Judging from the causality lists on the sport sheet every morning, don't you think it would be a good plan to start field hospitals?

—K. B.

An Aerial Honeymoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hodge of Cincinnati, who are honeymooning, dropped into Beardstown Saturday, for a short visit. Beardstown (Ill.) Register.

WHEN HOSE ARE APROPOS!

Should I call on the bright Marie With love-light in my eye; She'd have to pose in orange hose, For I'm from Miami.

—Bert.

Were I to call on your Marie,

That fickle female frail; Her color scheme would have to be The bull-dog blue of Yale.

—Ell.

Poor Marie! After reading yesterday's Pot, she purchased three different and distinct sets of hose. When she reads the above she shall have to buy some more. And who knows what the mailman may bring today?

Will Gill, in the Cleveland Plain Dealer, is responsible for the following:

The Poet's Boast.
Dear lady, full of do I bore you
With the rhymes of a sputtering pen,
That tell the old tale—"I adore you
And am dying to see you again."

But as evening, when granted the favor
Of gazing and drinking my fill,
My love holds a Lycical saucer,
I'm poet enough to keep still!

be absolutely applicable today. Judge F. O. Mason, law partner of Sec'y of the Treasury Folger (rep.) who came into the Cleveland ranks, wrote, "I think that in this instance the democratic party has not made a mistake. It seems to have apprehended the real demand of the people and to have met that demand by the character of its candidate." This is exactly what the democrats have done this year.

And—said it is to relate—although not playing the same role, Roosevelt in 1916 is performing the same service in pretty much the same way for Hughes that Ben Butler performed in 1884 for Blaine and with it, it seems likely, the same effect. There remain two more points of similarity to be commented on: The democratic campaign of 1916 is based on an appeal to the good sense and the conscience of the American people as was their campaign in 1884; and the result of the campaign of 1916 will be the same as that of 1884—Victory.

TAFT ELECTOR IN 1912
COMES OUT FOR WILSON

NEW YORK, Oct. 25.—A. E. Matheson, conservative republican Taft elector in 1912 and law partner of ex-Sen. John M. Whitehead, late candidate for the republican nomination for United States senator in Wisconsin, has announced that, from motives of patriotism, he will

support Pres't Wilson for re-election, while at the same time adhering to the republican state ticket in Wisconsin.

Pres't Wilson," said Mr. Matheson, "has been roundly condemned for allowing the Adamson bill to become a law. He did about the only thing he could do to prevent a great calamity."

"As to his Mexican policy I think he has done just about as well as any man could with a very bad situation. He has managed to avoid war with Mexico, with its sacrifice of American lives and expenditures. I am in hearty accord with him in not recognizing a man like Huerta."

"There are three grounds for my support of Mr. Wilson. One is what seems to be a real interest in the social welfare of men and women; his humanitarian impulses and purposes. He is trying to do something for the man who is struggling—whether the man is in America or Mexico."

"In the second place, I am with Wilson because he takes a very definite stand on the German-American question, sometimes called the 'hyphenate' question."

"I think Wilson has handled foreign affairs with large vision and looking to the future, as well as to the present. I commend Wilson for acting with fine poise and balance, in very trying times."

"I put my Americanism above my partisanship, and in these critical times I deem it my patriotic duty to stand by Pres't Wilson."

PEOPLE AND THE RAILROADS

By FREDERIC CYRUS LEUBUSCHER

President of Wilson-Seabury League, New York.

The railroads of the country are over-capitalized by at least six billions of dollars—the increase in the value of land owned by the railroads. The railroads are trying to have the committee on valuation of the Interstate Commerce Commission add eight billion, six hundred million dollars to their present capitalization.

The present over-capitalization—if the railroads be permitted a net return of 6%—involves an annual needless charge of three hundred and sixty million dollars upon the farmers, small business men and the consumers of the country—nearly half of the total national budget, exclusive of the postoffice department, which is practically self-sustaining. The additional capitalization sought by the railroads would add a much greater burden than the present over-capitalization. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance to every consumer in the country that a president should be elected who recognizes the rights of the consumers, and not merely the vested rights and wrongs of the railroads, since he has the appointment of the interstate commerce commission and of the justices of the supreme court.

The most important cases in which the right of the railroads to capitalize increases in land values and charge rates thereon was involved were the Minnesota rate cases. The legislature reduced rates in that state, claiming that the railroads were not entitled to predicate rates on increased land values. The case was appealed to the United States Supreme court. Mr. Justice Hughes writing the decision held:—

"It is clear that in ascertaining the present value, we are not limited to the consideration of the amount of the original investment. The property is held in private ownership, and it is that property, and not the original cost of it, of which the owner may not be deprived without due process of law."

WHAT THIS DECISION MEANS.

The railroads of the country received land grants of 155,000,000 acres—one-twelfth of the continental land area;—they have been given terminals in cities, now immensely valuable; and have received subsidies of about three-quarters of a billion dollars. As population increases the value of their lands is constantly increasing. That value will, in a few years, be doubled.

On this value, created by all the people, the supreme court decided the railroads are entitled to earn the same profits as on money they have legitimately and prudently invested. This unearned income will shortly amount to a billion dollars a year. Mr. Hughes held that the values created by the people entitle railroads to charge the people higher rates.

Mr. Hughes sincerely thinks in terms of privilege and not in terms of people.

POSITION OF COMMERCE COMMISSION.

In the case of Spokane vs. Northern Pacific Railway Co., the Interstate Commerce Commission said:—

"Whether, under the laws and Constitution of the United States, our railroads can demand a return not only upon the money which has been actually invested in these properties, but also upon this value, which has grown from almost nothing to vast proportions without the expenditure of money or the assumption of risk, is a question of tremendous importance."

PRACTICE IN MASSACHUSETTS.

In the Middlesex and Boston Rate Case, the Massachusetts Public Service Commission says:

"There has hitherto been little occasion to deal in detail with the principal that investment and not reproduction cost is in Massachusetts the basis of the relation between the rate-paying and the investing public; but any other theory will be found upon an investigation of our statutes and earlier decisions, to be utterly inconsistent with Massachusetts law. From the time of granting the earliest charters in this commonwealth to railroad corporations practically all of our legislation, dealing with the rights of public service corporations has gone upon the theory that their capitalization should be limited to actual capital invested, and that rates were to be figured upon the capital. It is only money honestly and with reasonable prudence invested in a public utility that is entitled to earn a full return."

Mr. Hughes favors permitting the railroads to reap where they have not sown—so placing an enormous burden on farmers, merchants and all consumers. As President, he could veto any legislation of Congress, and would also have the appointment of members of the Interstate Commerce Commission and of the United States Supreme Court. His election would, therefore, mean higher freight and passenger rates—smaller profits for the legitimate business men of the country, and an increase in the cost of living for all. In 1912, Mr. Hughes, in declining to become a candidate for the Presidency, stated in substance that to do so would bring the decisions of the United States supreme court into politics. In now becoming a candidate he cannot complain if his decisions are judged by the electorate. As the decision in the Dred Scott case was a determining factor in the election of Abraham Lincoln, so the opinions of Mr. Hughes as Justice of the United States supreme court will help elect Woodrow Wilson. Adv.

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